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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/881,662	06/15/2001	Kenji Tsukada	Q64982	6948

7590 01/03/2002

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

[REDACTED] VO, ANH T N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2861	

DATE MAILED: 01/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/881,662 Examiner ANH VO	Applicant(s) TSUKADA ET AL. Art Unit 2861	
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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
 2b) This action is non-final.
 2a) This action is FINAL.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 6) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are objected to.
 7) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.
 8) Claims _____

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
 18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
 19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 20) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

The specification has been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. However, the applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Appropriate correction or clarification is required.

In claim 13, it is unclear what the "lyophobic part" is and how it is read on the preferred embodiment on the preferred embodiment or can be determined on the drawings. The same is true for claim 16.

In claim 14, the recitation "wherein said container . . . said liquid" on lines 7-11 is indefinite because the claim combines an apparatus with a method.

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The remaining claims are dependent from the above rejected claimed and therefore also considered indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hara et al (US Pat. 6,312,115) in view of Hayakawa et al. (JP 404135862).

Note: The method steps are inherently taught in the apparatus device/limitations in the rejections as follow:

Hara et al disclose in Figure 17-18E and 19 an ink cartridge comprising:

- a container body (1);
- a pressure reducing container (43) and a vacuum pump (45); and
- charged ink (67);
- wherein a pressure in the ink body (1) is reduced to a pressure lower than an atmosphere pressure by the vacuum pump (45) and the container (1) is charged with the charged ink (67).

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However, Hara et al. do not disclose the piezoelectric device for detecting a consumption condition of the liquid.

Nevertheless, Hayakawa et al teaches in Figure 1 an ink cartridge comprising a flexible piezoelectric sheet (11) for detecting remaining ~~quantity~~^{quality} of a chamber (a) without fail. It would have been obvious to a person having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the piezoelectric device taught by Hayakawa et al in the ink container of Hara et al for the purpose of detecting the remaining ink with fail. Note that selecting the steps of assembling and refilling the ink container to reduce cost would be obvious to a person having skill in the art depending upon a particular environment or an application in which the modified ink container of Hara et al is to be used.

*AV
12/01*

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Anh Vo whose telephone number is (703) 305-8194. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The fax number of this Group 2800 is (703) 305-3431 or 305-3432.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



ANH T.N. VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
December 26, 2001